



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

For Information Contact Public Affairs
WYN HORNBuckle
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

PHOENIX PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIEN RECEIVES 15 MONTHS PRISON FOR SMUGGLING CHILDREN

TUCSON – Lady Laura Rivera-Lopez, 23, of Phoenix, Ariz., was sentenced on April 11 to 15 months in prison and three years supervised release, by U.S. Chief District Judge John M. Roll. Rivera-Lopez had pleaded guilty on January 8, 2007, to Conspiracy to Transport Illegal Aliens.

On October 30, 2006, Lady Laura Rivera-Lopez, applied for admission into the United States via the pedestrian lane at the port of entry in Nogales, Ariz. She was traveling with two minor children, a 5 year-old boy and a 7 year-old girl. Rivera-Lopez presented birth certificates for the children and falsely claimed that the boy was her son and that the girl was the daughter of a friend. One of the birth certificates belonged to her own child. After being referred to secondary inspection, Rivera-Lopez admitted that she had no family relationship to either children. She admitted that a male offered to pay her \$2,500 to pick up the children at a hotel in Mexico and transport them to Phoenix. She admitted that she picked up the children from an unknown male at a hotel in Mexico and that she suspected the children were not related to this man. She stated that she was to deliver the children to a man at a shuttle terminal in Phoenix. The children were later determined to be citizens of Mexico and did not have legal authority to be in the United States. The Mexican Consulate's Office responded to the port of entry to take custody of the children.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Customs and Border Protection in Nogales, Arizona. The prosecution was handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-1982-001-TUC-JMR (HCE)
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